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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

GB00/4339

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REC'D 19 DEC 2000

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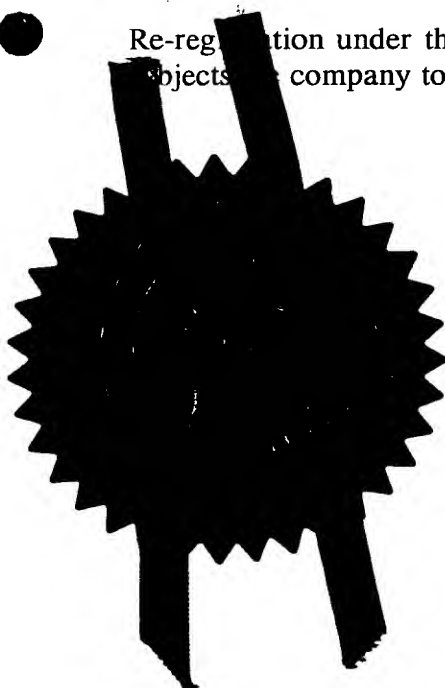
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P01/7700 0.00-9926984.7

15 NOV 1999

Your reference PC Card Antenna

9926984.7

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The
Patent
Office

Request for grant of a
Patent

Form 1/77

Patents Act 1977

1 Title of invention

ANTENNA FOR A WIRELESS DEVICE

2. Applicant's details

☒

First or only applicant

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If applying as an individual or partnership
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Forenames

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ADP Number

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Number

C03274

5627856002

4 Reference Number

PC Card Antenna

5 Claiming an earlier application date

An earlier filing date is claimed:

Yes ☐No ☒Number of earlier
application or patent number

Filing date

15 (4) (Divisional)

8(3)

12(6)

37(4)

☐☐☐☐

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6 Declaration of priority

Country of filing

Priority Application Number

Filing Date

Country of filing	Priority Application Number	Filing Date

7 Inventorship

The applicant(s) are the sole inventors/joint inventors

Yes ☐No ☒

8 Checklist

Claims 1 ✓

Abstract 1 ✓

Continuation sheets

Description 5 ✓

Drawings 1 ✓

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Priority Documents

Translations of Priority Documents

Patents Form 7/77

Patents Form 9/77

Patents Form 10/77

9 Request

We request the grant of a patent on the basis
of this application

Signed:


(Origin Limited)

Date:

15 Nov 99

DUPLICATE

Antenna for a wireless device

Field of the invention

- 5 This invention relates to an antenna for a wireless device. The term 'wireless device' used in this specification refers to any electronic device which includes a wireless reception and/or transmission capability, irrespective of whether or not other (e.g. wire based) forms of communications capabilities are also supported.

10 Description of the Prior Art

Providing a conventional notebook computer with wireless communications capabilities can be done in several ways, including for example, the use of a GSM PC card inserted into the PC Card bay of the notebook computer. One design limitation affecting wireless devices, such as wireless enabled notebook computers, is that an antenna generally has to

15 protrude significantly from the wireless device casing, since that casing is usually metal and would therefore screen incoming and outgoing radiation. Hence, an antenna formed on a PC card also has to extend significantly from the metal casing of the PC card when in use.

- 20 Conventionally, this has led to 3 kinds of antenna designs for wireless devices: first, antennas which are permanently connected to their associated radio receiver/transmitter hardware but are hinged and can fold out of a casing for use. An example of this would be a PC Card with a small hinged antenna which is hinged flush with the top of the PC Card when not in use, so that the antenna extends only slightly from the casing of the
- 25 notebook computer into which the PC card is inserted. FM radios typically also use a hinged, telescopically extensible antenna. When wireless communications are required, the antenna can be hinged outwards and extended as required. A second kind of design is an antenna which is removable when not in use but which can be readily connected for use. An example would be a clip-on antenna for a PC card offering wireless capabilities:
- 30 a small antenna connects to the PC card body via a high quality electrical connector. The

third kind of antenna is the permanently fixed antenna, for example the stub antenna as commonly found on mobile telephones.

5 These approaches all have disadvantages: the hinges of hinged antenna can often be readily damaged; removable antenna can be too readily lost and permanently fixed antennas are susceptible to damage. Another disadvantage with conventional designs is that the electrical connectors leading from the antenna to the radio receiver/transmitter circuitry have to carry radio frequency signals with high integrity and are therefore relatively expensive, high quality components.

10 The requirement to provide wireless communications capabilities to electronic devices will become increasingly important as wireless communications becomes ever more pervasive. For example, recent developments in technology, such as Bluetooth, offer the possibility of connecting devices such as PDAs and laptop computers; Bluetooth enabled
15 computers and peripherals will likely become popular wireless devices, able to transmit and receive wireless data to other Bluetooth enabled equipment, such as other computers and peripherals. Antennas which can work with Bluetooth signals require high integrity electrical connections, so that the conventional solutions would be particularly expensive because of the required high quality of the components.

20 **Statement of the Invention**

25 In a first aspect of the invention, there is provided an antenna for a wireless device, the antenna being mounted on a platform which is retractable into a casing when the antenna is not in use and is extendable out of the casing and the device to enable the antenna to operate effectively, and in which some or all of the signal processing circuitry handling signals to and from the antenna is also mounted on the platform.

Because the antenna is mounted on a retractable platform, shared with some or all of the signal processing circuitry (e.g. wireless receiver and/or transmitter circuitry), it is both robust when extracted, cannot be lost and may also be fully retractable within the casing when not in use. The platform can be a printed circuit board. The platform need not be a single unitary piece: the only requirement is for the part of the platform on which the antenna is attached to be fixed relative to the part of the platform on which the circuitry is mounted. Another advantage of mounting the antenna in very close proximity to the related signal processing circuitry is that no expensive interconnection cable between antenna and circuitry is required: the required electrical connections can for example be a simple rigid connection such as a connection printed directly onto the printed circuit board on which the circuitry and the antenna are mounted. The wireless receiver and/or transmitter circuitry is itself connected to data processing circuitry within the casing of the device via cheap and robust data cabling, such as ribbon cabling. Hence, the only significant cabling in such an embodiment is ribbon cabling, rather than the expensive, high integrity cabling needed to carry a wireless signal.

In a preferred embodiment, the platform slides within a PC Card casing. Since PC card slots are virtually standard in notebook and laptop PCs, this is a particularly convenient implementation since it means that a full functional radio transceiver, for example a wireless LAN transceiver, can be fitted to a wide range of devices. Conventional wireless LAN antennas are somewhat delicate and readily broken, so that the robust solution offered by this embodiment is an attractive one. The card may slide out under the force of a spring ejection mechanism, have a motorised ejector or be merely pulled out manually.

In another aspect, there is provided a PC Card including an antenna which is slidably mounted within the casing. By providing an antenna on a slidable mounting, the antenna

even when extended is robust and cannot get lost. The antenna may be mounted on a slidable platform which may include some or all receiver/transmitter circuitry.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- 5 The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 is a perspective view of a PC Card embodiment of the present invention with an integral signal processor module/antenna fully retracted and Figure 2 shows the same card with integral signal processor module/antenna fully extended.

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Detailed Description

- Referring now to the figures, a standard PC Card casing 1 contains a section 2 which can slide in and out of the casing 1 by approximately 10 or 12 mm. Mounted within the slidable section 2 is a PCB which acts as a platform. The antenna occupies the first 10mm approximately of the section 2, and is therefore fully exposed when the section 2 is fully extended out of the casing 1. The antenna is printed onto the PCB, with a printed connection to a radio transceiver. Other conventional components are also mounted onto the PCB, such as a flash memory and light emitting diodes. The slidable section 2 is electrically connected via a ribbon cable to a connector mounted on a PCB within the casing 1 that contains data processing circuitry, PC Card interface circuitry and PC Card connector; that ribbon connector carries all digital data traffic from the radio transceiver. The PC Card 1 includes a standard PC Card interface which allow data communication between the radio transceiver module within the section 2 of the card 1 and the device into which the PC Card is inserted. That device will typically be a laptop or notebook computer, but can be any kind of computing or communications device.

Card 1 can be inserted into a standard PC Card slot. When the antenna is to be used, it can be readily extended as small springs are mounted behind the rear face of the slidable

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section 2 and the casing 1; by releasing a catch, the slidable section will be moved forwards into a position in which the antenna is fully extended.

5

Claims

1. An antenna for a wireless device, the antenna being mounted on a platform which is retractable into a casing when the antenna is not in use and is extendable out of the casing and the device to enable the antenna to operate effectively, and in which some or all of the signal processing circuitry handling signals to and from the antenna is also mounted on the platform.

2. The antenna of Claim 1 in which the platform is a printed circuit board.

3. The antenna of Claim 2 in which electrical connections between the antenna and the signal processing circuitry are printed directly onto the printed circuit board on which the circuitry and the antenna are mounted.

4. The antenna of Claim 3 in which the antenna is printed directly onto the circuit board.

5. The antenna of any preceding claim in which the platform slides within a PC Card casing.

6. The antenna of Claim 4 in which the platform may slide out under the force of a spring ejection mechanism, the force of a motorised ejector or be capable of being extracted manually.

7. A PC Card including an antenna which is slidably mounted within the casing of the PC card.

8. A PC Card as claimed in Claim 6 including an antenna as claimed in any of Claims 1 - 5.

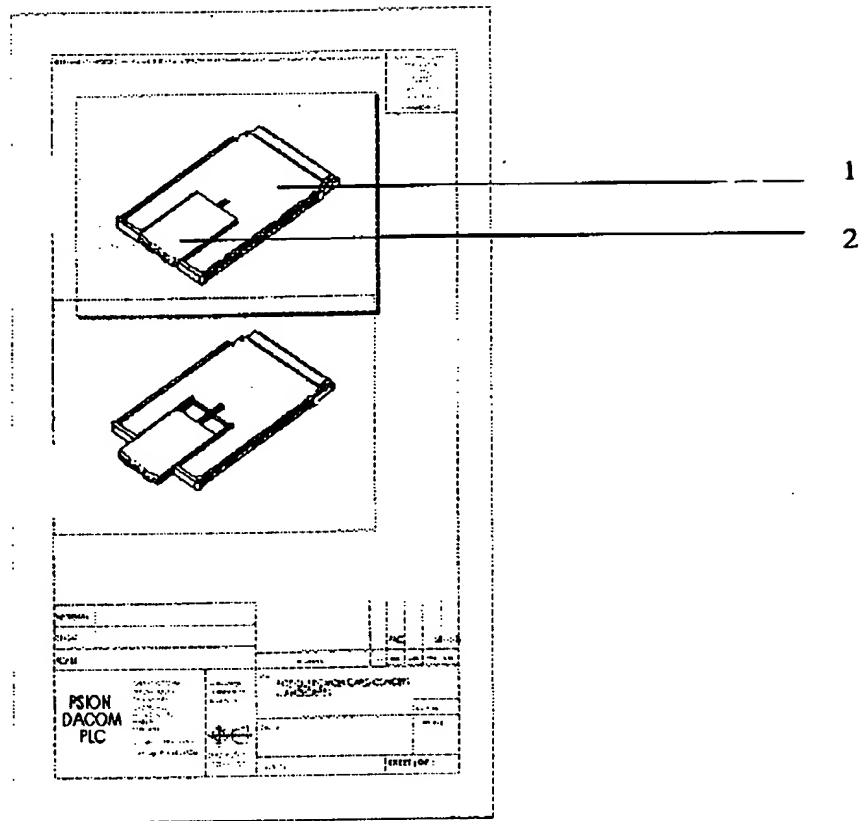
Abstract

Antenna for a wireless device

- 5 A PC Card contains an antenna which is mounted on a platform which is retractable into the PC Card casing when the antenna is not in use and, when in use, is extended out of the casing and therefore out of the device in which the PC Card is itself inserted. Some or all of the signal processing circuitry is also mounted on the slidable platform. Because the antenna is mounted on a retractable platform, shared with some or all of the
- 10 wireless receiver and/or transmitter circuitry, it is both robust when extended, cannot be lost, is fully retractable within the casing when not in use and requires only cheap and simple printed connections to the signal processing circuitry.

Figure 1

Figure 2



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